

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09451 231025Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W

----- 033867

O 230930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4611

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 118990; (B) MACTHAI DTG 190930Z MAY 75

1. THE EMBASSY SHARES THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED FAILURE OF THE UDORN POLICE TO CLOSE THEIR BOOKS ON THE LUACHAI CASE AS PROMISED, AND THUS ENABLE THE FOUR U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL TO DEPART THE COUNTRY.

2. REF B GIVES THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CASE, WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. THE EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO PRESS HIGH-LEVEL THAI OFFICIALS FOR MOVEMENT TO CONCLUDE THE CASE. AS RECENTLY AS MAY 21, THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COUNSELOR RAISED THE MATTER WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL PRACHA KUNAKASEM, OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PRACHA SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN THAT CHATCHAI ASK NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL POTE PHEKANAN TO INTERCEDE WITH THE UDORN POLICE TO CLOSE THE CASE WITHOUT FURTHER FORMALITIES. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER CHATCHAI WILL TAKE THE MATTER TO POTE OR WHETHER POTE WILL FOLLOW THROUGH, BUT WE THINK WE SHOULD ALLOW A COUPLE OF DAYS TO GO BY BEFORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 09451 231025Z

WE FOLLOW UP WITH PRACA OR CHATCHAI.

3. WE HAVE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED THE IDEA OF SIMPLY REMOVING THE FOUR FROM THAILAND AND ADVISING THE RTG THEREAFTER. IN THE PAST, REMOVAL FROM THAILAND OF U.S. PERSONNEL WITH POLICE OR COURT CASES PENDING AGAINST THEM HAS PRODUCED AN EXPLOSIVE REACTION FROM THE THAI SIDE, AND IT WOULD PRODUCE AN EXTREMELY STRONG RESPONSE IN THIS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CASE. PARTICULARLY NOW, IN THE WAKE OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, UNILATERAL REMOVAL OF THE U.S. PERSONNEL WOULD IMMEDIATELY BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE IN WHICH THE U.S. WOULD BE CHARGED WITH FLOUTING THAI SOVEREIGNTY BY REMOVING ACCUSED PERSONS FROM THE REACH OF THAI JUSTICE. THIS WOULD SEVERELY PREJUDICE OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH FUTURE FOREIGN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION CASES IN A MANNER SERVING THE INTERESTS OF ALL OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL HERE.

4. WORKING IN OUR FAVOR IS THE FACT THAT THE CASE HAS, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, RECEDED FROM THAI PUBLIC INTEREST AND HAS NOT BEEN REFERRED TO IN THE NEWS-PAPERS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. IF THIS CONTINUES, WE CAN HOPE FOR A FAVORABLE OUTCOME WITHIN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. BUT THIS WOULD BE FRUSTRATED IF THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING WE ARE DOING IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THE SITUATION LOOSE BECAME PUBLIC.

5. THE EMBASSY IS MOST MINDFUL OF THE UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION OF THE FOUR SOLDIERS. PLEASE ASSURE CONGRESSMAN WAGGONER THAT WE ARE GIVING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE CASE THAT WILL ENABLE THE FOUR TO LEAVE THAILAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESUME PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CONGRESSMAN MIGHT HAVE TO FIELD QUESTIONS ON THIS CASE AFTER HIS ADDRESS ON FRIDAY. WE HOPE THAT IN DOING SO, HE WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE NOT TO GO MUCH BEYOND SAYING THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, HAS MADE KNOWN HIS INTEREST IN THE CASE, AND HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT THE EMBASSY IS DOING ITS BEST

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 09451 231025Z

TO ARRANGE FOR THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE CASE AND DEPARTURE OF THE SOLDIERS FROM THAILAND. ABOVE ALL, HE SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE UDORN POLICE THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS IN BANGKOK.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRIMES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, RAMASUN STATION, PRISONERS RELEASE, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO09451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0661
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750520/aaaaaryu.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 118990, 75 MACTHAI DTG 190930Z, 75 MAY 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT
TAGS: MARR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006